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Access to Moving Image Archives
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COMMENTS

FIELD #1: Each standard has a fixed value for the Library of Congress identifier

FIELD #2: The 1st MARC value refers to a personal name within a main entry, implicating the person most responsible for a work. Most motion picture MARC records seem to use the 2nd value for an added entry, perhaps due to the convoluted process of filmmaking involving multiple contributors and creators from numerous sources. 700\$e refers to the specific position held by the personal name. While both DBC & MODS allow for a "creator" designation, the MODS entry is significantly more convoluted than DBC, which is able to express the same information in much simpler terms.

FIELD #3: MARC, again, distinguishes between main entry and added entry for uniform title; this value is used when a work has been published or referred to under numerous titles and a 'uniform title' is necessary to wrap them all together. DBC & MODS do not have a specific entry for uniform title, instead simply using 'title'.

FIELD #4: Genre is basic and uncomplicated. DBC uses the value 'type', but it refers to genre of a work.

FIELD #5: Again, a simple relatively equivalent description across all standards.

FIELD #6: While MARC & MODS values specify the country or origin/production, the DBC record is vague, able to express the country of origin/production but also a topical location within the work.

FIELD #7: All three standards express the date of release in a straightforward and simple value.

FIELD #8: MARC value covers language of work in textual format, as distinguished from other MARC values describing codified language format. MODS can also distinguish between language text and code. DBC value is simplistic.

FIELD #9: The three MARC values refer to media type [film, video]; material base [acetate, Mylar]; and dimensions [gauge]. DBC & MODS values are straightforward and unambiguous.

FIELD #10: MARC value is straightforward and specific. DBC and MODS values are vague and can refer to units as well as running time.

FIELD #11: 1st MARC value is a fixed entry referring to running time of a motion picture/video recording; 2nd MARC value refers to playing time. DBC and MODS values are less specific, able to refer to running time or number of units.

FIELD #12: 1st MARC value is fixed referring specifically to generation of a motion picture; 2nd MARC value falls under 'physical medium' and generally refers to a generation of a work. Neither DBC nor MODS have values for generation.

FIELD #13: MARC value refers to presentation format, suggesting aspect ratio. Neither DBC nor MODS have values for this field.

FIELD #14: MARC value is straightforward and specific. MODS value refers generally to acquisition, though source itself is not implicit. DBC value refers to the *method* rather than the *source*, but is the closest equivalency.

FIELD #15: MARC and DBC values are straightforward and specific. MODS value is an interpreted composite of two 'note types' on the sub-elemental level.

FIELD #16: All standards have specific values for rights holders.

FIELD #17: MARC & MODS have ability to express the original creator of a copyrighted work (i.e., original copyright holder), but DBC does not.

FIELD #18: MARC values refer to Terms Governing Access, Jurisdiction, and Physical Access Provisions. DBC value <rights: accessRights> and sub-value license are used as information on who has access rights/can determine these provisions. MODS specifically refers to access restrictions using legal sub-elements.

FIELD #19: DBC does not have elements to describe preservation actions. MODS has ability to express preservation action in two ways: wrapping sub-element 'conservation history' in <note> element within sub-element 'action' also wrapped in <note> element; additionally, preservation actions could be expressed under <reformattingQuality> element using key terms 'access', 'preservation', or 'replacement'. 1st MARC value refers to general action [including preservation action] while 2nd MARC value refers to date of inspection.

FIELD #20: MODS value is very general and could refer to a number of rights information; it is used here to describe previous ownership. MARC value indicated custodial history, i.e., provenance. DBC has provenance sub-value.

FIELD #21: First MARC value refers to "status" of work under preservation actions; second is a fixed value for motion pictures specifically referring to "deterioration stage". MODS can express condition using a sub-element wrapped in <physicalDescription>. DBC cannot express condition.

Out of the three standards I've analyzed, the MARC 21 standard is clearly the richest with the most capability for granular cataloging. The organization of numerical value systems with alphabetical subsets makes search and retrieval of record information simple and quick, especially considering the Library of Congress website has a user-friendly guide to the MARC 21 standard textual equivalencies. However, in some ways MARC 21 is *too* granular and complex, often using many varied values to describe similar or synonymous fields. This can become confusing when attempting to create or decipher records, especially as someone unfamiliar with metadata standards and rules. For example, the field "Uniform Title" has *at least* two different numerical values: 100\$a and 700\$a. One has to read the fine print to decipher that the former is used for "main entry" records, while the latter is used for "added entry" records, and even then the distinction remains slightly ambiguous.

DublinCore, on the other hand, is overly simplistic which leads to vagueness and ambiguity. A good example would be the term "format: extent" which can be used to describe both running time and number of units for a work [e.g., number of reels per film]. Though this distinction might become obvious through the record information input, the general nature of DublinCore as a whole can create issues in distinguishing between dates, creators/contributors, etc... Additionally, DublinCore does not provide information for fields specific to moving image works such as generation and aspect ratio, nor does it provide the ability to reference preservation information such as conservation actions and condition of the work. However, the simplicity of DublinCore does allow for versatility in regard to interoperability of standards. Given the small number of generalized fields, DublinCore allows for quick referencing and crosswalking of cataloged records.

MODS is my personal favorite standard out of these three. In terms of granularity and richness, it is situated in between MARC 21 and DublinCore, though the syntax is much more complex. I found the task of compounding MODS attributes and sub-elements both challenging and fascinating. The syntax is precisely what makes MODS difficult and slightly obscure in comparison to MARC 21 and DublinCore, but it is this layered syntax that allows for more granularity and richness.